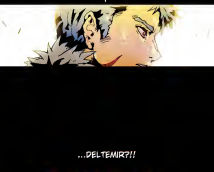


- 3 Hours Ago -

CHAPTER 1 MESHUGANA(1/2)

Dancing In The LuciD★Dream

MOM TOLD ME NOT TO DRINK TEA WITH STRANGERS.

IF YOU HAVE A BOTTLE LIKE THAT, THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF THE TALISMAN TEST, RIGHT?

YEAH, OF COURSE.

LIKE HOW THE PROPULSIVE NOT BEING ABLE TO REMEMBER THE CONTENT OF THE TEST.

OR HOW THERE'S NEVER BEEN A SINGLE FATALITY FROM THE TEST.

AND EVEN THOUGH SO MANY PEOPLE ARE EACHESED, A FALLMAN SPIT'S NEVER BEEN CAPTURED.

RIGHT? THEY HERE FAMOUS STORIES AT THE SCHOOL. EVEN THE TEACHERS WOULDN'T TELL US ABOUT THEM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEST IS TO FLUSH OUT ANTI-SOR WAR, LOOKING FOR THOSE THAT CAN REPRISE THE FALLMAN

IF IT'S FOR THAT GOAL, THE EXAMINERS WON'T STOP AT ANYTHING.

MOREOVER, WHEN I WAS ABOUT "WAR"

IT SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

ARE... ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE TALISMANS CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT TO SPIT?

THEY CAN DO THEIR MIGHT ALREADY HAVE

YOU SHOULDN'T THINK ANY BETTER OF SPIRITAR JUST BECAUSE IT'S A FREE COUNTRY UNLIKE FALLMAN

IF YOU LOOK AT HISTORY, THERE'S NEVER BEEN A SINGLE ELEAN COUNTRY

NO WAY-!!

NO WAYS AND SHIFTERS ARE WHAT GETS PEOPLE

THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING WE SHOULD FORM AN ALLIANCE JUST IN CASE.

EXCLUDING THE TEST, IF ANYTHING FALLSEELS NEED TO MATTER TO ANY ONE OF US. WE SHOULD HELP EACH OTHER, EVEN AGAINST AN EXAMINEE OR SOMETHING ELSE.

...WE HAVE A POINT...

FEAR...

BUT, THERE'S A CATCH

EVEN AN IMPORTANT ALLIANCE SHOULD BE MADE WITH A BIT OF TRUST.

LET'S MAKE A SHORT SELF-INTRODUCTION

MY NAME IS MINGCHELL STARLING (ALIAS)
I APPLIED FOR BOTH TALISE AND TALISTAE, AND I'M GOOD AT CLOSE-COMBAT!
I'M RUWALLETTE FERIDE.
I'M CONFIDENT IN MY SPEED AND REFLEX BUT NOT SO MUCH IN CLOSE-COMBAT. CLOSE? I COME FROM THE RUINS NOBODY IS MINGCHELL.
I'M FELTSWIK CRAYSON
I CAME FROM FALLWAY AND WAS AN ORDINARY SOLDIER (BALLISTA) I'M CONFIDENT IN BOTH CLOSE AND LONG RANGE COMBAT BUT NOT SO MUCH IN SPEED
MY NAME'S MAVEN PROTOCOL.
I WORKED AS A PROGRAMMER IN FALLWAY AND EVEN THOUGH I'M GOOD AT TACTICAL BATTLE, I WAS HOPELESS IN COMBAT. (MAJOR FAILURE!)
LET'S GO! A CROSS!!
Stunned
!!!!!!
C...CROOSSSSS~!!!!
KUOO
IT WAS AN ALLIANCE MADE OUT OF GOOD FAITH. TRUST.
ALSO, FOR THERE TO BE AN ALLIANCE, WE SHOULD ALL STAND ON EQUAL FOOTING.
RUWALLETTE, YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT FELTSWIK WAS A FALLWAY SOLDIER AS WELL AS HIS ABILITIES
IN WHICH CASE, YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL US ABOUT YOUR PAST.
WHAT?!
WHAT DOES MY PAST HAVE TO DO WITH THE ALLIANCE?!
A LOT.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS AFTER I MET UP WITH MAEVN. BUT THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON IN THIS TEST.
SO WE WERE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A THEORY.
A THEORY?!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A SIMPLE GUESS, IT'S QUITE PLAUSIBLE AND ESSENTIAL TO THIS TEST.
ISN'T IT JUST HOPELESS IN THE END?!!
OF COURSE BUT WE'RE GOING TO GO ABOUT THIS TEST BASED ON THIS THEORY.
AND ACCORDING TO MY DEDUCTION, THE PARTICIPANT'S PAST IS PLAYS A VITAL ROLE. SO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAST.
WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER BUT YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FIND OUT OUR WEAKNESSES
WOOW. THE ALLIANCE WAS RUN WITH JUST YOU TWO.
WAIT! WAIT! KNOW LISTENING TO YOUR STORY FIRST!
NO THANKS
Wh
aak

OUCH!

IT'S A RARE CHANCE TO MAKE HER WORRY BUT, ARE YOU GOING TO RUB SALT ALSO?

HAA?!!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MINGCHELL? I'M FREE ON DUTY TRYING TO PICK UP!

WELL THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE SOMETHING ON THEM MIND!

JUST GOING OFF WITHOUT REALLY LISTENING TO OTHERS? THAT'S A BAD HABIT!
ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS EVERY SINGLE TIME? JUST RUN AWAY EVERY TIME YOU MEET SOMEONE NEW?

IT'S EMBARRASSING! STOP IT! WHAT'RE YOU LECTURING ME LIKE A MOM ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP ACTING STUPID!

DIDN'T YOU DO THE LESSER OF EVILS? BECAUSE YOU LIKED THEM?

NO I DIDN'T...

I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHO HAS THE TRUMP'S MERIT.

YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG, KIMBLE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM THE PAST, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FACE IT SOMEDAY.

HOWEVER...

YOU KNOW THAT TRUE MERIT IS THE THINGEY EVEN WITHOUT ACTUALLY COMPARING THEM.

...

STONE REFLECTING NOW?

ALRIGHT. WE'LL TELL YOU OUR PAST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

BUT YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED...

SINCE IT'S QUITE DANGEROUS.

AFTER HEARING IT, YOU JUST MIGHT DIE WITHOUT KNOWING KNOWING ABOUT IT. YOU KNOW?

SOOO BUT MY LIFE'S BEEN IN FINALLE SINCE I WAS 6.
SO I'M NOT REALLY FEELING IT.
Wh
o
o
Sh
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Ta
ta
tat
...AH?!!!
Tak
Scra-
KYAA!!!!
...OHHH...
...!
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND ME HERE EITHER.
OOP
Wh

G
Gulp...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
Surprised
..?!!!!
IT SEEMS LIKE...
YOU'RE GOING TO HANG YOURSELF
UK... WHY NOW...
WHAT... YOU DON'T LIKE BEING INTERFERED?
OR DO YOU SIMPLY NOT WANT TO DIE?
WHO ARE YOU TO BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
I COULD SAY THE SAME THING TO YOU, YOU KNOW?!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...!! DO YOU THINK A GIRL WHO HAS NOTHING BETTER TO DO WOULD GO SO DEEP IN THE WOODS TO HANG HERSELF?!
I HAVE TO DO THIS..!! SOMEONE LIKE YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND!!
HM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
MMM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
BUT DID YOU KNOW?
THAT PEOPLE WHO DIE BY HANGING, END UP SWINGING WITH THEIR TONGUE HANGING OUT THIS LONG?

YOU'RE TRYING TO PROVE THAT TO ME NOW, RIGHT?!!

OR DID YOU KNOW?

THAT PEOPLE WHO DIE BY HANGING

EJACULATE

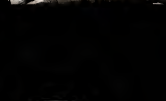
BUT NO ONE KNOWS IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU REACH A CLIMAX.. OR BECAUSE YOUR MUSCLES RELAX...

BUT YOU'RE...

TRYING TO

PROVE

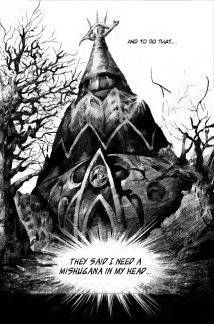
THAT TO ME NOW, RIGHT?!!!!



IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO DIE...

THEN DON'T.

BUT OTHERS WILL DIE IF I LIVE...
CHE?
IS THAT A SACRIFICE?
YOU...CAN ACCEPT THAT?
OF COURSE. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.
WHY DO YOU THINK HUMANS' BLOOD BECAME RED?
...TO PROVOKE OTHERS...
TO ME, YOU'LL JUMP A MEANING...
WHAT CAN I DO...
TO BECOME STRONGER...?
IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DESIRE.
NOT WHAT YOU GIVE UP.
SO NOW
FOR WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO DO SUCH A THING.
ALL THE WAY HERE?
I...
HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD


AND YO DO THAT...
THEY SAID I NEED A MISHUGANA IN MY HEAD...

THAT'S ALL WE CAN TELL YOU

I WET MAGCHILL IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT DAY AND STAYED IN LABYO SINCE THEN

...DO YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE?
LIKE THE 'TRUTH' OF THAT PLACE?

NO... THIS IS ENOUGH.
IN RETURN, I'LL GIVE YOU A SERIOUS ADVICE.

GIVE UP THE TEST!
YOU TWO DON'T BELONG HERE...!

WHAT DID YOU SAY BASTARD?!!!
Hiss
WAIT KINKLE, CALM DOWN!!

LABYO IS THAT PSEUDO-RELIGIOUS GROUP IN ATHOSS, RIGHT? THE ONE RUMORED THAT EVEN THE BRAVEST FIGHTER WILL COME OUT CRAZY...
ACCORDING TO OUR THEORY, PEOPLE WITH TRAUMAS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE THE WORST!!
FOR OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL. YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE WHEN I GENEROUSLY ADVICE YOU
BEFORE I RESORT TO FORCE...!

YOU'RE GONNA CHEW OUT ALL THE SWEETNESS FROM US AND SPIT US OUT LIKE A GUM?!

ISN'T THAT TOO MUCH FOR JUST TELLING US ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD PLANS?

Pa
-BOTH OF YOU STOP!!!!
at

KINKLE!! ARE YOU GOING TO USE YOUR POWER BEFORE YOU EVEN ENTER THE TEST? THINK RATIONALLY!!!

IF OUR CONSEQUENCES DON'T MATCH UP WITH THEIR'S THEN THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!!!

THIS BASTARD HAS NO HEART! HE'S TELLING US TO BUT AS SOON AS HE HEARS ABOUT WHERE WE'RE FROM!!

OUR PAST DOESN'T DO US JUSTICE!! DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH WINSCHELL AND I WORKED TO BECOME A TALISMAN?!!!

THAT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYBODY ELSE

MASHU. DON'T MAKE AN UNNECESSARY RUCKUS. I CAN GUARANTEE HIS STRENGTH

IF IT'S RINKLELETTER, HE'LL SURVIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE TEST.

..REALLY?

OF COURSE!! EVEN JEAN GRILLS WILL LOOK AT ME AND SAY "THIS CATERPILLAR LOOKS TASTY!" YOU STUPID WINDMILL HAT!

WELL.. IT'S TOO LATE TO FIND OTHER PARTICIPANTS NOW.

Hold

THEN LET'S FORM THAT ALLIANCE AGAIN!

LET'S GO TO THE GRAND LINE~~~~~~!!!!!

THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF ALLIANCE I WAS TALKING ABOUT

IT'S A SPY!! CATCH HIM!!

Doom

SO WHAT REALLY IS THAT STUPID THEORY OF YOURS?

LOOK AT THIS

Beep

...WHAT'S THAT CREEPY LOOKING THING?

IT'S A DEVICE I CREATED CALLED PELMAGOTCH!

I WORRY ABOUT ZEL'S SAFETY SO I ALWAYS LISTEN TO HIM OR CHECK ON HIM USING THIS!

SHOW!

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO HIS SAFETY.

WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK AT IS THIS MENTAL STATE.

REM

NORMAL

AS YOU CAN SEE IT SAYS 'REM'.

REM... AS IN REM SLEEP?!

ARE YOU SAYING.. HE'S DREAMING RIGHT NOW?

PROFOUTS DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE TEST!

AND THERE WASN'T BEEN A SINGLE FATALITY EITHER.

NOT ONLY THAT.. BUT A WAY THAT MAKES IT HARD FOR A FALLMAN SPY TO ENTER.

ANYTHING FLASHING IN YOUR MIND?

CO...COULD IT BE...?!

THAT WE'RE ALL...

DREAMING RIGHT NOW?!

I'D LIKE TO SAY IT THIS WAY.

THAT THE FALLMAN TESTING GROUND ITSELF IS A DREAM...!

WE ALL CAME HERE ON A BUS. BUT WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST MAKE US GATHER IN THE PLAZA?

AND WHY DID WE FIND CHANGES TO THE BUS WHEN WE WERE GETTING OFF?

YOU'RE RIGHT.. ! I STILL REMEMBER THAT!!

THE PHRASE IN THE BUS WAS DIFFERENT WHEN I GOT ON AGAIN AND THE LICENSE PLATE WAS BACKWARD'S TOO!

I THINK THOSE CHANGES ARE 'PROJECTIONS'. CHANGES MADE BY OUR SUBCONSCIOUS.

THAT PROCESS IN WHICH WE CAME TO THE DREAM WORLD WAS QUITE FORCED!

BUT I THINK OUR SUBCONSCIOUS WERE TRYING TO TELL US THAT THIS IS A DREAM

BY MAKING SMALL DISTORTIONS IN THE DREAM WORLD...!!

PEI SAYS THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FALLMAN SOLDIER THAT HE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST

BUT THAT'S PROBABLY WHEN HE AND YOU FELL ASLEEP

THE CIGARETTE SMOKE YOU INHALED WHEN YOU GOT ON THE BUS WAS ACTUALLY A SLEEPING GAS

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW PURING YOUR FIGHT WITH THE FALLMAN SOLDIER BECAUSE YOU WERE MOVING AROUND, YOU MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP AFTERWARDS WHEN YOU RELAXED.

THAT.. MAKES SENSE..

BUT... WON'T THAT BE TOO DEADLY TO BE A DREAM WORLD?
WHY IS IT POSSIBLE THAT NO GAME FAILURE WILL RESULT IN DREAMING THE SAME THING?
I DON'T KNOW HOW THE DREAM WORLD WORKS. BUT SEEING AS HOW IT WAS MADE FOR THE TALISMAN TEST, THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND THE INDIVIDUALS' ABILITIES SHOULD BE THE SAME.
IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO FORCE A PERSON INTO A DREAM WORLD THAN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM ANYMORE, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...
IS THAT IF THIS WAS ALL TRUE, THEN A TALISMAN'S "POWER" IS JUST THAT AMAZING.
WE FOUGHT A BIG ONE!
OF COURSE, EVERYTHING'S ONLY A THEORY. NOTHING'S CHANGED EVEN IF IT'S A DREAM.
DEATH HERE MIGHT ONLY MEAN WAKING UP IN THE REAL WORLD, BUT A FAILURE IS A FAILURE.
THE REASON I STOP YOU TO QUIT THE TEST IS BECAUSE OF THE "PROJECTIONS"
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MINISCULE, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR OUR MINDS TO DISTORT THIS WORLD. SO MANY ERRORS WILL OCCUR.
UNLIKE OTHERS, WE'RE A STEP AHEAD
IT BECAME A LUCID DREAM AS SOON AS WE FIGURED OUT THIS PLACE WAS A DREAM.
THIS IS A DREAM WORLD WHERE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
WE SHOULD NEVER BELIEVE EVERYTHING WE SEE AS IT IS.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING HUGE, BUT IT'S JUST ABOUT A DREAM.
ALL LAWS OF PHYSICS AND THE INDIVIDUALS' ABILITIES ARE STAND AS IN THE REAL WORLD AND YOU WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED IF YOU DIE OR IF YOU FAIL TO MEET THE TEST'S STANDARDS. NOTHING'S CHANGED.
WE CAME HERE CHASING OUR DREAM.
WE'RE TRYING TO BELONG TALISMAN TO REACH OUR GOAL
EVEN IF IT'S A NIGHTMARE I NEED TO DREAM TO REACH THAT GOAL.
THEN IT'LL BE ALRIGHT OVERDOING IT...!!

To be continued...